



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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MEMA UNVEILS CEAS PROGRAM

MEMA has partnered with the non-profit, Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNET) to implement the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is the first state to adopt CEAS as a statewide program. CEAS is a post-disaster business continuity program that facilitates travel and access into restricted areas for key private sector personnel and resources through the use of a common credential. The program provides a simple means of identification -- a centrally issued, pre-authorized secure credential which is issued to a limited number of employees of eligible companies and organizations. The CEAS card facilitates travel through, or into restricted areas if local authorities determine that such travel or access is safe and will not impede public safety response operations. It is the only ID-based access program recognized by Massachusetts state and local enforcement and emergency management agencies.



Disasters and emergencies can significantly impact critical business systems and operations and affect the availability of essential commodities and services that are provided by the private sector, such as power, fuel, food, water, prescription medication, transportation, financial services, health care, and social services. The goal of the CEAS program is to help ensure the availability and continuity of these essential systems, commodities and services by allowing critical private sector employees rapid access to their facilities following disasters and emergency events. Participating businesses receive CEAS credentials for employees who need to support critical business operations and support disaster recovery efforts. These critical employees can quickly get back to work, assess damages, retrieve assets, stabilize and sustain core IT systems, and ensure their companies' continuity and recovery operations.

CEAS is available by annual subscription to eligible businesses and organizations across Massachusetts. To enroll, or learn more about the Corporate Emergency Access System, visit www.ceas.com/ma.

2016 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE COMING

MEMA is hosting the 2016 Massachusetts Hurricane Preparedness Conference on May 26, 2016, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Norwood. This free day-long conference, entitled "Building Resilience by Reducing Infrastructure Vulnerability", will bring together more than 350 attendees from all disciplines and levels of emergency preparedness and response. This year's conference will focus on identifying vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure related to hurricanes and enhancing resilience, and will feature speakers, who are considered experts in their field, including: James Franklin, Branch

Chief, National Hurricane Center; Michael Byrne, FEMA Deputy Region II Administrator; Stephen Flynn, Co-Director of the George J. Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security; and others.



This is a great opportunity for participants to share ideas and best practices, gain knowledge and insight about existing vulnerabilities and mitigation initiatives, and network with other emergency management professionals. The intended audience for the conference is state and local emergency management and public safety officials involved with hurricane preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Participants must pre-register by May 17th using MEMA's online Training Registration System (TRS) (<https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS>). To ensure

diverse participation, all registrants will be placed on a waitlist and will be notified of acceptance no later than the conference registration deadline. Once approved, participants will receive a confirmation email via the MEMA Training Registration System. For registration assistance, accommodations (including dietary), or conference related questions, please contact MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit at trainingexercise@state.ma.us or 508-820-1408.

SUCCESSFUL 2016 BOSTON MARATHON RACEDAY OPERATIONS



MEMA again hosted the Public Safety Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the running of the Boston Marathon. Beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Monday April 18, over 220 individuals representing more than 60 local, regional, state, federal, private and volunteer agencies and organizations staffed the MACC for the duration of the event. Although the 30,000 runners dealt with temperatures in the 70's for part of the race, a relatively low number of participants needed care from medical personnel and stations along the course and at the finish line. Approximately 1,100 runners sought attention in the 26 medical tents along the course, with an additional 1,500 receiving medical care in the medical tents at the finish line. Approximately 150 runners were transported by ambulance to local hospitals. The MACC successfully connected local, state and federal emergency operations centers and command posts to provide and maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture, facilitate multi-jurisdictional decision making, and ensure effective communication and coordination between the Boston Athletic Center and public safety personnel across the eight host cities and towns.

FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

During the months of March and April, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

March 2-4, 9: MEMA supported a Brookline Police Department training program that simulated low-light traffic stops. MEMA deployed a Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) to Brookline which was utilized as an audio/visual briefing area for the officers and evaluators participating in the training.

March 4-7: MEMA supported UMass Amherst during the Blarney Blow-out event with its Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) and 80 cache radios. These assets were utilized to support communications interoperability among the 19 police agencies involved in the event. These agencies included Amherst PD, UMass PD and MA State Police.

March 9: MEMA provided an MEOC to support incident command at a large brush fire on Tekoa Mountain in Western MA.

March 19-20: MEMA provided 30 cache radios to support the Holyoke Fire Department during the city's St. Patrick's Day parade.

April 2-3: MEMA supported Stockbridge during its Mercy Sunday event. An MEOC was utilized as a unified command post by Stockbridge PD, Stockbridge FD, Stockbridge EMD and elected officials, MA State Police, Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, County Ambulance and EMS, Berkshire Regional CERT, and Fairview Hospital. MEMA also provided 40 cache radios to support communications interoperability.

April 18: MEMA supported Lexington FD during their Patriot's Day parade with 14 cache radios.

April 18: MEMA supported Brookline during the Boston Marathon. The MEOC was utilized as a unified command post during the Boston Marathon.

April 18: MEMA supported the MA National Guard with 90 cache radios during the Boston Marathon.

April 18: MEMA supported the 26 Medical Stations along the Boston Marathon route with 78 cache radios. The radios were used to request ambulances from the MACC during the Boston Marathon.

April 27: MEMA supported the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council during their communications drill at Six Flags, New England. The MEOC was utilized as an incident command post during the drill.

April 30: MEMA supported Northampton during the UMass Amherst Cannabis Reform Coalition rally at the 3 County Fairgrounds. The MEOC was utilized as an incident command post. The incident command team was comprised of Northampton PD and FD, MA State Police, Amherst and Easthampton.

April 29-May 1: MEMA provided the Western Shelter Tent and HVAC system to the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) for their humanitarian response exercise at Harold Parker State Forest in Andover. The Western Shelter Tent was utilized as a field command post during the exercise.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the months of February, March and April, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 759 students in 28 different classes covering the following topics (many of which were to assist in the preparation for the 2016 Boston Marathon): ICS-100; ICS-200: Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents; ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents; ICS-400: Advanced; HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Response-Awareness Level; G-202: Debris Management; Field Force Command; Field Force Extrication; Field Force Operations; PER-211: Medical Management for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, & Explosives Events (CBRNE); AWR-525: NIMS-700; Site Protection & Document Screening Techniques; Behavioral Observation & Suspicious Activity Recognition; G-775: Emergency Operation Center Management & Operations; Benefit-Cost Analysis: and Overview; and Construction & Retrofitting of Homes in the Coastal Area. To date, in 2016, 935 students have taken 36 separate classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

LATEST FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of the end of April, 815 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA. The total project costs reflected in these PWs is over \$48.5M in federal assistance to local communities, state agencies, and private non-profits (75% of the \$64.1M obligated project costs). Applicants are reminded to return

their complete, executed contract packages to MEMA as soon as possible to ensure timely reimbursements.

AVAILABLE MITIGATION GRANTS

2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program grants are available to reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Eligible projects include those that result in a reduction to natural hazard damage, such as: stormwater drainage and culvert improvements; floodplain and stream restoration; flood control, diversion, and storage; property acquisition; slope stabilization; infrastructure protection; aquifer storage; seismic and wind retrofits; structure elevations; etc. The application deadline is May 25, 2016. For more information: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/grants/>.

SUCCESSFUL SEABROOK NUCLEAR EXERCISE

On April 8, FEMA announced its preliminary evaluation of the Commonwealth's performance during the April 5 biennial federally graded exercise of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan. Positive evaluations were handed down for the performances of the local officials from the six MA Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities (Amesbury, Merrimac, Salisbury, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury); 60 participants at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham which included MEMA personnel, MassDOT, American Red Cross, MA Department of Public Health, MA Department of Mental Health, MA State Police, MA National Guard, Mass211, the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, and FEMA; MEMA's Region I EOC in Tewksbury; the Emergency Operating Facility (EOF) in Portsmouth, NH; Joint Information Center (JIC) in Portsmouth, NH; Public Affairs Office (PAO) at MEMA HQ; and the Nuclear Incident Assessment Teams (NIAT) in the field. This exercise concluded two years of preparation, included multiple practice exercises.

VERMONT YANKEE EPZ CLOSED

On April 19, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station officially closed its 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), which included 18 towns in MA, NH and VT. Entergy, the plant owner, received permission late last year from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to shrink the emergency planning zone to the plant site itself, with officials saying the risk of an accident, and any associated off-site radiation release, has decreased and would be limited to the plant's boundaries. All fuel has been permanently removed from Vermont Yankee's reactor and the spent fuel has cooled significantly since the plant ceased producing power in December 2014. Entergy plans to move all of Vermont Yankee's spent nuclear fuel into more stable dry cask storage by the end of 2020, as most of that material currently is stored in a cooling pool inside the reactor building.

NEW ENGLAND EXPECTED TO MEET SUMMER POWER DEMAND

According to ISO New England Inc. the operators of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets, New England is expected to have sufficient electric generation and demand-response resources available to serve the forecasted peak demand this summer. This summer, under normal weather conditions of about 90°F, electricity demand is forecasted to peak at 26,704 megawatts (MW). Extreme summer weather, such as an extended heat wave of about 94°F, could push demand up to 29,042 MW. New England has access to several types of resources to meet the summer's increased demand for power including generators that produce electricity, such as nuclear, oil, coal, natural gas, hydro, biomass, and wind; demand-response resources that can be activated to reduce their energy use; and power imported into New England from New York and Canada. If all generating resources in New England were operating at full output, the total amount of power produced would be approximately 30,347 MW. For further details, go to <http://www.iso-ne.com/about/news-media/press-releases>.

CSU RELEASES 2016 HURRICANE OUTLOOK

On April 14, the Tropical Meteorological Project at Colorado State University (CSU) released their 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. While they predict an average season, it is important to remember that it only takes one storm to produce catastrophic impact to communities. The prediction includes a likelihood of 12 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 5 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). CSU will update their forecast on June 1. For more information on the CSU forecast, go to <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2016/apr2016/apr2016.pdf>. MEMA encourages everyone to prepare now and know what to do before, during, and after a hurricane makes landfall. Being prepared helps build stronger, safer and more resilient communities. For Preparedness information: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergencies/hurricanes/>.

TOWN OF SANDWICH DESIGNATED STORMREADY

On March 31, the Sandwich Local Emergency Planning Committee announced that the Town of Sandwich has received a *StormReady* designation from the National Weather Service (NWS). It is the first Cape Cod communities to receive this designation. Sandwich joins fourteen MA communities, six colleges and universities, one military site and one commercial enterprise, to receive a *StormReady* designation. To earn this designation, a community must fulfill several requirements, including: establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public; create a system that monitors weather conditions locally; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercise. For additional information about the *StormReady* program, go to <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>.

WILDFIRE DANGERS

The recent combination of high temperatures, low humidity, and warm breezes has elevated the risk of brush and forest fires across the Commonwealth. Wildfires often begin unnoticed, but spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. There are three different classes of wild fires: 'Surface fires' are the most common type, burning along the forest floor, moving slowly and killing or damaging trees; 'Ground fires' are usually started by lightning, burns on or below the forest floor; and 'Crown fires', which spread rapidly by the wind, moving quickly by jumping along the treetops. Since 80% of forest fires are started by negligent human behavior, such as smoking in forested areas or improperly extinguishing campfires, most wildfires are preventable. The public is urged to obey all burning regulations set in place by public safety officials.

NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY ON MAY 31

May 31, 2016 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day, an event that commemorates the tragic failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On May 31, 1889, the dam failure resulted in the loss of more than 2,200 lives and was the worst dam failure in the history of the United States. National Dam Safety Awareness Day seeks to promote best practices for dam safety, raise awareness of the benefits that dams offer, and highlight steps that can be taken to prevent future catastrophic dam failure. Background information on National Dam Safety Awareness Day can be found at <http://engineeringstrongersafer.net/>.

2016 NEDRIX SPRING CONFERENCE

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will hold their 2016 Spring Conference on May 11 at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, 101 Huntington Avenue, Suite 1300, Boston, MA 02199. For additional information, go to <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2016-nedrix-spring-conference/>.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

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